

## NOTES ON THE PÆDERINI.

By THOS. L. CASEY.

As preliminary to a revision of our *Pæderini*,\* it is desired at the present time to publish a few notes and descriptions in the form of a prodromus.

### HOMÆOTARSUS Hochh.

At the time of publication of the description of *Hesperobium* (Bull. Cal. Acad. Sci., II, p. 33), the genus *Homæotarsus* was unknown to me in nature, but within the past year I have received from Herr Reitter of Vienna a perfect male specimen of *H. Chaudoiri*, the type of the genus, and find that our species should be generically associated with it, at least for the present. It is true that there are certain differences of minor value, as for instance in the antennæ, which in the Armenian species have the joints strangulated at base, and the eleventh joint fusiform and gradually pointed at apex. The sexual characters are also different, presenting a form of emargination of the fifth and sixth segments, which is quite foreign to our species. These differences are, however, of a secondary or perhaps subgeneric value, and when the genus is thoroughly investigated the species assigned more particularly to *Hesperobium*, will form one only of a number of subgenera; until that time the name can very well be suppressed.

In the remarkable collection recently made by Mr. H. H. Smith in Brazil, there are several very peculiar species; one, for example, in which the large lobe of the third segment in the male is deeply bilobed, giving the appearance of two well developed lobes, and another large slender species, having unusually long and slender legs, in which the posterior trochanters of the male are prolonged in a slender spine which extends to the apex of the femur, reminding us somewhat of the same part in the Carabide genus *Platidius* of Chaudoir.

The following table indicates the differential characters of the eastern species allied to *pallipes* Grav.

Elytra subequal in length to the prothorax.

Posterior margin of the fifth ventral segment ♂ toothed in the middle; emargination of the sixth segment deeper than wide.....**pallipes**

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\* In order that this work may be as complete and useful as possible, it is earnestly hoped that those who have material to spare, may consent to its utilization in the proposed revision. In connection with this request it should be suggested, and I think most collectors will readily agree, that it would be far better for the ultimate welfare of Science if unique types could be retained in the cabinet of the reviser. The contributors would, however, in every case receive in return a larger set of carefully determined species than can probably be included in their individual series.

Posterior margin of the fifth segment simple.

Emargination of the sixth segment ♂ as wide as deep.....*capito*

Emargination twice as wide as deep.....*flavicornis*

Elytra much longer than the prothorax ... ..*cinctus*

In his original description of *pallipes*, Gravenhorst does not allude in any way to the sexual characters of the male, and his description is perfectly applicable to either *pallipes* or *capito*; the table will therefore serve to establish these species in their mutual relationship. *Cinctus* was, two years after Say's publication, described by Nordmann (Symb. ad Mon. Staph., p. 150), as *Cryptobium latericola*. This was erroneously printed *C. latebricola* by Erichson. and so copied by all the more recent authors, perhaps under the very plausible assumption that *latebricola* is what Nordmann intended to write. *Flavicornis* Lec., is a smaller species with decidedly narrower head; it is rare.

The following new genera are perhaps worthy of description on this occasion :

#### MEGASTILICUS n. gen.

Body robust, sub-depressed. Head rounded, borne on a very slender neck. Eyes rather small. Antennæ very short, compact, slightly robust, scarcely perceptibly incrassate. Labrum large, broadly emarginate in the middle at apex, the emargination bidentate. Maxillary palpi very small, moderately robust; third joint cylindrical, about twice as long as the second, truncate at apex; fourth joint small, subulate. Legs long and slender; tarsi cylindrical, the anterior not in the least dilated in the male; posterior nearly as long as the tibiæ, with the first four joints decreasing gradually in length, the first shorter than the next two combined and slightly longer than the fifth.

This is a myrmecophilous genus, peculiar in the structure of the maxillary palpi, in this respect having no near allies which I have seen. The body is remarkably robust.

#### *M. formicarius* n. sp.

Rufo-ferruginous; head and abdomen piceous; entire upper surface densely granulato-reticulate, rather dull and covered somewhat densely with short erect and very robust spinules; abdomen smoother and not granulate. Head as wide as long, very slightly wider and longer than the prothorax, the latter hexagonal, widest much before the middle, feebly narrowed toward base, the latter transversely truncate. Elytra slightly wider than long, longer than the prothorax and, toward apex, nearly twice as wide. Abdomen short and broad, in the middle slightly wider than the elytra; sides arcuate. Length, 5 mm.

New Jersey; Massachusetts.

The male has the apex of the sixth ventral segment deeply sinuate.

I am indebted for my first specimen of this very singular insect to my friend Mr. W. Jülich, of New York; subsequently I received several others through the kindness of Mr. F. Blanchard, of Lowell, Mass.; whose MS. name I have adopted for the genus.

PLATYMEDON n. gen.

Body robust, depressed, with the sides parallel. Labrum rather short, quadridentate; teeth short. Antennæ moderate in length, slender, not incrassate, the first joint more robust. Eyes moderate. Maxillary palpi rather well developed; third joint very strongly compressed, longer than the second and increasing in width from base to apex; fourth minute, subulate, very strongly compressed. Neck broad. Anterior coxal cavities open behind, the pronotal hypomera widely inflexed behind and acute, becoming rapidly narrower anteriorly. Legs slender, moderate in length; tarsi slender, the posterior elongate, three-fourth as long as the tibiæ, the first four joints decreasing rapidly in length, the first shorter than the next two together and much longer than the fifth.

This is also a myrmecophilous genus, the distinguishing character of which is the very strong compression of the third and fourth joints of the maxillary palpi. It is related to *Medon*.

*P. laticollis* n. sp.

Rufous-ferruginous throughout; integuments shining, not reticulate, the abdomen subalutaceous and much more densely pubescent; anterior portions very finely and not very densely pubescent. Head wider than long; sides nearly parallel; base broadly, very feebly arcuate; antennæ much shorter than the head and prothorax together. Prothorax as long as the head and slightly wider, one-half wider than long; sides nearly parallel; basal angles broadly rounded. Elytra distinctly wider than long, longer than the prothorax but scarcely perceptibly wider. Abdomen as wide as the elytra, the fifth segment as long as the two preceding together. Length, 4.2 mm.

Nebraska.

The single specimen before me I owe to the kindness of Mr. E. A. Schwarz; it is probably a female.

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At the meeting of the Feltman Collecting Social, July 9th, Mr. Laurent gave a description of a very ingenious box for preserving food plants fresh for some time. The size of the box determined on, a rough wooden box, is partly filled with fluid plaster of paris, and another box of the inside dimensions desired is pressed into the pasty mass, the space between the two boxes being then completely filled and the edges made smooth and even. When the plaster has set, the inside box is broken out and the plaster box turned out of the outside casing. For the cover a shallow mold is prepared with a smooth bottom and a flat cover is cast which, if the job is neatly done, will fit tightly upon the plaster box. The plaster will absorb a great deal of water and give it off very slowly, keeping the plants in the box fresh a long time. When dry the box is put under a tap and again charged. Mr. Laurent says he has kept *Sassafras* fresh for 13 days in such a box. For a man able to get out only once a week, such boxes would prove of immense advantage.